

**City Council Retreat  
January 8-9, 2020  
Camp Joy**

Council members in attendance: Nancy Averett, Al Delgado, Jim O'Reilly, Zach Green, Sarah Stankorb Taylor, Jeff LeRoy, and Thaddeus Hoffmeister

Staff members in attendance: Rusty Herzog – Police Chief, Lynn Tetley – City Manager, Terry Huxel – Public Works Director, and Jeremiah Caudill – Finance Director

Others present: Brad Bonham – Wyoming Resident and Kelly Kessler – Camp Joy

Kelly Kessler from Camp Joy welcomed everyone to the retreat and provided housekeeping information to all.

Local Government 101 – Wednesday, January 8 9:00 a.m. to Noon

Mike Hinnenkamp, Executive Director of the Ohio Plan and Tom Carroll, Village Administrators from the Village of Silverton, provided a presentation on the basics of local government. Topics covered include: forms of local government, roles and responsibilities, Wyoming Charter, open meetings and public records, rules of Council, financial practices, strategic planning, etc. A copy of the presentation is available.

High Performing Councils – Wednesday, January 8 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

John Nalbandian, Professor Emeritus from the University of Kansas, provided a presentation on High Performing Councils. A copy of the presentation is available.

Takeaways and Goal Setting

Takeaways from yesterday:

1. Focus on what is best for the City as a whole rather than what's best for the individual
2. Difference between what is politically desired versus what can realistically be done
3. Human desire to tether to something familiar or nostalgic (idealized view or resistance to change)
4. Awareness of influx of new residents
5. Role as customer service representative and trustee
6. Ideas for creative problem solving (funding for jail, school, and pool example)
7. How to gauge political temperature in the community (advisor, survey, master plan, etc.)
8. Learned a lot from Silverton's environmental and sustainability efforts

Mr. O'Reilly discussed planned new exit from southbound I-75 that will deliver traffic onto Wayne Avenue and Millsdale. This will potentially be a topic for City Council in the future.

Discussion of "rules of engagement" and expectations regarding communication and working as a team. Communication goals and ideas include: proactive, open, frequent, respectful, engage residents who attend meetings (ask clarifying questions, summarize comments). Move podium to center of audience area so residents feel more comfortable asking questions at City Council meetings. Make sure residents know they can ask questions during the meeting. Earlier receipt of City Council packet material (Thursday before meeting). Advance notice for substantive miscellaneous topics at meetings. Continue to focus on communication with school district. Analysis not paralysis. Seek to understand. Lead and be courageous. Be open to change but respect tradition. Respect everyone and seek everyone's opinion. Support each

other and celebrate all successes and accomplishments. Self-reflection and awareness. Remain engaged in all meetings. Put City needs over personal wants. Don't talk to talk – add value to the conversation. Even if the decision is not unanimous – the entire team (staff included) needs to support the decision/project.

Goal Setting:

1. Impact on City of State transportation decisions
2. Work collaboratively
3. Increase environmental sustainability in ways that save the City money
4. Fiscal responsibility
5. Safety – pedestrian, traffic calming, adding sidewalks
6. Put the City first
7. Community gatherings, enhanced entertainment options (shop, buy, and party local)
8. Improve communication with community
9. Modeling an inclusive City
10. Engagement at the County and State level in dialogue that impacts the City (improve political position)

Adjourn

The retreat adjourned at Noon on January 9, 2020.

Approved:

Thaddeus Hoffmeister, Mayor